

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 OTTAWA 01909 212204Z

10

ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03 INR-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 ACDA-10 /047 W

----- 002408

R 212123Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6511

INFO USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 1909

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, PGOV, CA

SUBJ: CHARLES R. NIXON TO BE DEPUTY MINISTER OF NATIONAL
DEFENCE

REF: OTTAWA 1485

1. PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE ANNOUNCED MAY 15 THAT NIXON WOULD REPLACE SYLVAIN CLOUTIER AS DEPUTY MINISTER IN DND. "BUZZ" NIXON IS 47, FROM ANITOBA, GRADUATED FROM ROYAL CANADIAN NAVAL COLLEGE AND AS A COMMANDER IN RCN. HE HAS ATTENDED UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO AND MIT, AND HAS BEEN WITH PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE (CABINET SECRETARIAT) SINCE 1966. HE IS PRESENTLY DEPUTY SECRETARY TO CABINET FOR PLANS.

2. DESPITE HIS NAVAL EXPERIENCE 1946-63, NIXON'S REPUTATION IS THAT OF A QUINTESSENTIAL BUREAUCRAT, AN EXPERT IN GOVERNMENT SYSTEMS ANALYSIS AND IN THE PROCESS OF GOVERNMENT DECISION-MAKING. HE IS WELL KNOWN WITH GOC FOR HIS ABILITY TO PUT ANYTHING IN GRAPH FORM, AND HIS LECTURES, REPETE WITH MULTI-COLOR CHARTS AND GRAPHS, ARE SOMETHING OF A JOKE IN OTTAWA. HE HAS RECENTLY BEEN THE PCO REPRESENTATIVE AT THE DEFENCE FORCE STRUCTURE REVIEW, WHICH IS STUDYING
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 OTTAWA 01909 212204Z

THE SEVERAL OPTIONS FOR CANADIAN ARMED FORCES, WITH

PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE COMPOSITION OF CANADA'S NATO CONTRIBUTION. IN THIS LATTER CONTEXT, A COLLEAGUE IN THE PCO SAID NIXON "WILL BE ABLE TO REPRESENT THE VIEWS OF PRIMIN TRUDEAU AND THE CABINET IN DND."

3. EMBASSY DOUBTS THIS APPOINTMENT WILL BE WELL RECEIVED BY CANADIAN FORCES, WHO ARE ALREADY UNHAPPY WITH DEFMIN RICHARDSON. THOUGH HIGHLY INTELLIGENT AND NOT WITHOUT HUMOR, NIXON IS A DRY, RESERVED AND METICULOUS INDIVIDUAL, CONCERNED MORE WITH THE PROCESS OF DECISION-MAKING THAN THE DECISIONS THEMSELVES, AND HARDLY LIKELY TO TAKE A STRONG STAND ON POLICY MATTERS. THERE IS NO RPT NO INDICATION HE IS ANTI-AMERICAN, BUT HE IS A FIRM CANADIAN NATIONALIST, A SENTIMENT WHICH HIS YEARS IN THE PCO HAVE STRENGTHENED.

4. ANNOUNCEMENT WILL ALSO BE A DISAPPOINTMENT TO ACTING DEPUTY MINISTER DAVID KIRKWOOD, A GOOD FRIEND OF US WHO HAD BEEN CONSIDERED (AND CONSIDERED HIMSELF) LIKELY CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION. PORTER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975OTTAWA01909
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750179-0531
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750531/aaaabbza.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 OTTAWA 1485
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <26 SEP 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHARLES R. NIXON TO BE DEPUTY MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENCE
TAGS: PINR, PGOV, CA, (NIXON, CHARLES R)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006